

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION
OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20579

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

SAMUEL J. SKIDMORE
EMMA MAE HECOX

Claim No. CU -4996

Decision No. CU 1257

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, was presented by SAMUEL J. SKIDMORE and EMMA MAE HECOX and is based upon the asserted ownership and loss of interests in bonds issued by the Cuba Railroad Company. Claimants have been nationals of the United States since their respective births in the United States.

Under Section 503 of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 [78 Stat. 1110 (1964), 22 U.S.C. §§1643-1643k (1964), as amended, 79 Stat. 988 (1965)], the Commission is given jurisdiction over claims of nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba. Section 503(a) of the Act provides that the Commission shall receive and determine in accordance with applicable substantive law, including international law, the amount and validity of claims by nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba arising since January 1, 1959 for

losses resulting from the nationalization, expropriation, intervention or other taking of, or special measures directed against, property including any rights or interests therein owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly at the time by nationals of the United States.

Section 502(3) of the Act provides:

The term 'property' means any property, right or interest including any leasehold interest, and debts owed by the Government of Cuba or by enterprises which have been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba and debts which are a charge on property which has been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba.

On the basis of evidence of record, the Commission finds that the late Samuel C. Skidmore, a national of the United States from his naturalization on September 20, 1919 until his death on December 27, 1966, was, since prior to October 13, 1960, and until his death, the owner of two bonds, in the original face amount of \$500.00 each, issued by the Cuba Railroad Company, and known as "First Lien and Refunding Bonds, Series A, 4%, due June 30, 1970" issued under an Indenture of March 10, 1922 and a Supplemental Indenture dated July 1, 1952, with the First National City Bank of New York as Successor Trustee. The bonds in question are numbered TRD 2 and TRD 3.

The Commission further finds that claimants, SAMUEL J. SKIDMORE and EMMA MAE HECOX, succeeded, in equal parts, to the decedent's interest in the aforementioned bonds.

The Cuba Railroad Company, by Indenture dated March 10, 1922, and Supplemental Indentures dated June 2, 1926 and July 1, 1952, issued Dollar bonds secured by mortgage upon the real property of the Company. By the Supplemental Indenture of July 1, 1952, the bonds were re-issued as 4% bonds, due June 30, 1970. As of 1952, the outstanding principal balance on each \$500.00 bond was \$317.50 with interest at 4% per annum to be paid on the principal balance.

The Cuba Railroad Company, incorporated in the State of New Jersey, was wholly-owned by Consolidated Railroads of Cuba (Ferrocarriles Consolidados de Cuba), a Cuban corporation. The Cuba Railroad Company thus would not qualify as a national of the United States under Section 502(1) of the Act which defines the term "national of the United States" as including "(B) a corporation or other legal entity

which is organized under the laws of the United States, or of any State, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, if natural persons who are citizens of the United States own, directly or indirectly 50 per centum or more of the outstanding capital stock or other beneficial interest of such corporation or entity".

The record discloses that the last payment of interest on the bonds was made on December 1, 1958. The properties of the Cuba Railroad Company were listed as nationalized in Cuban Law 890, published in the Cuban Official Gazette on October 13, 1960. Claimants' bonds, therefore, represented debts which were a charge upon nationalized property, as defined in Section 502(3) of the Act.

The Commission concludes that as a result of the nationalization of the properties of the Cuba Railroad Company, claimants suffered a loss in connection with their bonds within the meaning of Title V of the Act. (See the Claim of Albert I. Harris, FCSC Claim No. CU-2398).

The Commission finds that the total amount of the unpaid indebtedness on the bonds of the claimants was \$682.56, including the principal amounts of \$317.50 on each bond, and the interest due on each bond from December 1, 1958 through October 13, 1960, in the amount of \$23.78.

The Commission has decided that in certification of losses on claims determined pursuant to Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, interest should be included at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of loss to the date of settlement. (See the Claim of Lisle Corporation, FCSC Claim No. CU-0644).

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that the amounts of loss sustained by the claimants shall be increased by interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum from October 13, 1960, the date of loss, to the date on which provisions are made for settlement thereof.

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that SAMUEL J. SKIDMORE suffered a loss, as a result of actions of the Government of Cuba, within the scope of Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of Three Hundred Forty-One Dollars and Twenty-Eight Cents (\$341.28) with interest at 6% per annum from October 13, 1960 to the date of settlement; and

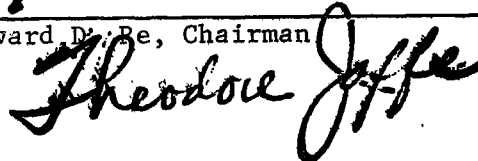
the Commission certifies that EMMA MAE HECOX suffered a loss, as a result of actions of the Government of Cuba, within the scope of Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of Three Hundred Forty-One Dollars and Twenty-Eight Cents (\$341.28) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from October 13, 1960 to the date of settlement.

Dated at Washington, D. C.,
and entered as the Proposed
Decision of the Commission

FEB 14 1968



Edward D. Re, Chairman



Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

The statute does not provide for the payment of claims against the Government of Cuba. Provision is only made for the determination by the Commission of the validity and amounts of such claims. Section 501 of the statute specifically precludes any authorization for appropriations for payment of these claims. The Commission is required to certify its findings to the Secretary of State for possible use in future negotiations with the Government of Cuba.

NOTICE: Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commission, if no objections are filed within 15 days after service or receipt of notice of this Proposed Decision, the decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission upon the expiration of 30 days after such service or receipt of notice, unless the Commission otherwise orders. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. 531.5(e) and (g) as amended, 32 Fed. Reg. 412-13 (1967)).

NOTICE TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT: The above-listed certificates and/or bonds may have been returned to claimant and no payment should be made until they are resubmitted.

**This is a true and correct copy of the decision
of the Commission which was entered as the final
decision on MAR 18 1968.** CU-4996

